

V. REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are provisionally rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of co-pending Application No. 10/697,027. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the provisional rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Weiss (U.S. Patent No. 6,623,006) and Loose et al. (EP 1,260,928) and further in view of Sietz et al. (WO 00/49332). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Weiss teaches a gaming machine that includes video game display. The video game display has a substantially planar front surface and a substantially planar rear surface. Also, the video game display has a periphery extending between front and rear surfaces and includes one peripheral side adjacent another game display. The one side has a wall spaced from the other game display by a minimum clearance and is immediately adjacent the other game display. The gaming machine has a housing with an openable front panel and two changeable game displays oriented in side by side relationship. The two displays are exposed through the front panel and visually accessible by a player. The video game display is a low profile liquid crystal display.

Loose teaches a wheel spinning slot machine with a superimposed video image. The slot machine includes immortality of mechanical rotatable wheels and a video display. The reels are rotated and stopped to randomly placed symbols on the reels in visual association with a display area. The video display provides a video image superimposed on the reels the video image may be interactive with the reels and include graphics such as payout values, a patent table or instructional information.

Seitz discloses a LED backlighting apparatus that is used in fuel dispensers. The LED backlighting apparatus is used for backlighting a liquid crystal display that is integral with the fuel dispensers and includes a plurality of light emitting diodes disposed all over and a circuit board and arranged into a matrix configuration.

Claim 1 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device and having a light transparent area which shows symbols displayed on the variable display device, from outside of the gaming machine. Claim 1 recites that the electric display device includes an electric display panel displaying an image, a light guiding plate having an opposing pair of flat surfaces and a plurality of contiguous side faces extending therebetween and peripherally about the pair of flat surfaces with the light guiding plate operative for guiding light entered from at least one side face thereof to a back face of the electric display panel so as to irradiate the light and an illumination device illuminating the electric display panel from therebehind with the illumination device including a plurality of light emitting diodes aligned continuously along and adjacent to the at least one side face of the light guiding plate.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device with the electric display device including an electric display panel displaying an image, a light guiding plate. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the light guiding plate and an illumination device illuminating the electric display panel from therebehind with the illumination device including a plurality of light emitting diodes aligned continuously along and adjacent to the at least one side face of

the light guiding plate. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 3 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device and having a light transparent area which shows symbols displayed on the variable display device from outside of the gaming machine. Claim 3 recites that the electric display device includes an electric display panel displaying an image, a diffusion sheet and an illumination device. Claim 3 further recites that the illumination device comprises a plate-shaped board and a plurality of light emitting diodes provided in a plurality of rows and columns to form a matrix on a surface of the plate-shaped board with the plurality of light emitting diodes opposing a back face of the diffusion sheet and the diffusion sheet is disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 3. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a gaming machine that includes a variable display device with the electric display device including an electric display panel displaying an image, a diffusion sheet and an illumination device. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the illumination device comprises a plate-shaped board and a plurality of light emitting diodes provided in a plurality of rows and columns to form a matrix on a surface of the plate-shaped board with the plurality of light emitting diodes opposing a back face of the diffusion sheet and the diffusion sheet is disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination

would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, claim 3 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 4 is directed to a game machine that includes a variable display device for variably displaying symbols and an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device and having a light transparent area which shows symbols displayed on the variable display device from outside of the gaming machine. Claim 4 recites that the electric display device includes an electric display panel displaying an image, a light guide plate and illumination device and a reflection plate. Claim 4 also recites that the light guide plate has an opposing pair of flat surfaces and a plurality of contiguous side faces extending therebetween and peripherally about the pair of flat surfaces and operative for guiding light entered from at least one side face thereof to a back face of the electric display panel so as to irradiate the light. Claim 4 further recites that the illumination device illuminates the electric display panel from therebehind with the illumination device including a plurality of light emitting diodes aligned continuously along and adjacent to the at least one side face of the light guide plate. Additionally, claim 4 recites that the reflection plate is disposed between the variable display device and the light guiding plate for reflecting light emitted from the emitting diodes on the light guide plate to the electric display panel.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 4. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests an electric display device that includes an electric display panel displaying an image, a light guide plate and illumination device and a reflection plate as recited in claim 4. In particular, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the light guide plate has an opposing pair of flat surfaces and a plurality of contiguous side faces extending therebetween and peripherally about the pair of flat surfaces and operative for guiding light entered from at least one side face

thereof to a back face of the electric display panel so as to irradiate the light. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the illumination device illuminates the electric display panel from therebehind with the illumination device including a plurality of light emitting diodes aligned continuously along and adjacent to the at least one side face of the light guide plate. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests that the reflection plate is disposed between the variable display device and the light guiding plate for reflecting light emitted from the emitting diodes on the light guide plate to the electric display panel. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 5-7 depend from claim 4 and includes all of the features of claim 4. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 4 is allowable as well as for the features they recite. For instance, claim 5 recites that the gaming machine further includes a diffusion sheet with the plurality of light emitting diodes opposing a back face of the diffusion sheet. Claim 6 recites about the gaming machine further includes a diffusion sheet with the diffusion sheet being disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device. Claim 7 recites that the gaming machine further includes a diffusion sheet with the plurality of light emitting diodes opposing a back face of the diffusion sheet and the diffusion sheet being disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device. At least for these additional reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 5-7 are allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claims 8-13 also include features not shown in the applied art.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

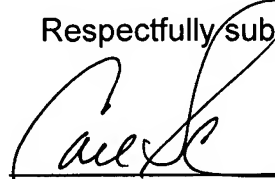
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 19, 2007

By:


Carl Schaukowitch
Reg. No. 29,211

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC

1233 20th Street, N.W. Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (three months)
 Request for Continued Examination